

Research!America

AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH®

February 28, 2005

The Honorable Michael Castle
The Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Board of Directors

Hon. Paul G. Rogers, *Chair*
Hon. John Edward Porter, *Chair-elect*
William A. Peck, MD, *Vice Chair*
Mary Woolley, *President*
Martha N. Hill, RN, PhD, *Treasurer*
Wendy Chaite, Esq., *Secretary*

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
William R. Brinkley, PhD
Roger J. Bulger, MD
Gail H. Cassell, PhD
Yank D. Coble, Jr., MD
Jordan J. Cohen, MD
Dominick P. DePaola, DDS, PhD
Sam Donaldson
Eugene Garfield, PhD
Jay A. Gershen, DDS, PhD
Mary C. Hayashi, MBA
Evan Jones
Caroline A. Kovac, PhD
William D. Novelli
Herbert Pardes, MD
William L. Roper, MD, MPH
Susan C. Scrimshaw, PhD
John R. Seffrin, PhD
Samuel C. Silverstein, MD
Hon. Louis W. Sullivan, MD
Alan G. Walton, DSc, PhD
M. Cass Wheeler
John Whitehead
Ruth Wooden
Judy Woodruff
Tadataka Yamada, MD

Honorary Board

Michael E. DeBakey, MD
C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD

Dear Representatives Castle and DeGette:

Thank you for your steadfast dedication to expanding the federal policy on embryonic stem cell research. Research!America supports "The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act," H.R. 810. Together, your efforts will help provide researchers with the access and funding necessary to explore the full potential of stem cell research.

More than 100 million Americans stand to benefit from the revolutionizing treatments and even cures that stem cell research promises to provide. The existing federal policy on stem cells is limiting researchers, discouraging young scientists from entering the field and putting the United States' leadership in medical research in jeopardy.

Research!America's public opinion polls show that 95% of Americans think it is important for the United States to maintain its position as the global leader in medical and health research. Our polling also demonstrates that two-thirds (66%) of Americans are in favor of therapeutic cloning and stem cell research.

The Research!America alliance is comprised of nearly 500 member organizations representing more than 100 million people. Our members represent the full continuum of medical and health research and include universities, voluntary health organizations, industry, independent research laboratories, professional and scientific societies and philanthropies. We greatly appreciate your support for expanding the federal stem cell policy and look forward to working with you toward this goal.

Sincerely,



The Hon. Paul G. Rogers



Mary Woolley